



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Advocate of Peace

VOL. LXXVIII

MAY, 1916

NUMBER 5

A UNITED STATES

WE of this country are a United States. Our history proves this beyond all question. Our relations with Germany have demonstrated it again. We as a people are today practically a unit upon two vital questions—first, that we desire no war with Germany; second, that we do propose to stand unflinchingly for the principles of international justice. In his address before the Congress, April 19, the President expressed the feeling of the country when he confessed that his decision had been reached “with the keenest regret,” and that “all sober-minded men must unite in hoping that the Imperial German government, which has in other circumstances stood as the champion of all that we are now contending for in the interest of humanity, may recognize the justice of our demands and meet them in the spirit in which they are made.”

If it were our ambition to go to war we could have done so long since. There has been provocation a-plenty in the “relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce” and in the inability of the Imperial German government to limit or restrain its warfare against freight and passenger ships. What we prophesied last August has come to pass. We have notified the German government that unless it “immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of warfare against passenger and freight-carrying vessels, this Government can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the government of the German Empire altogether.” This is not a declaration of war; it is not even a severance of diplomatic relations. It does represent, however, the collective judgment of the people of this nation.

We have tried to maintain in this country an attitude of official neutrality. We have stood for the protection of neutral life and trade. We have viewed with profound concern the evidences of impudent behavior toward a number of neutrals. We are now hoping that we shall not be obliged to abandon our neutrality in order to preserve the rights of neutrals. It has been our purpose to stand for the principles of international law without giving unnecessary offense. It has been our desire to maintain friendly relations with both sides. Whether we shall be able to maintain these friendly relations with both sides is at last a serious question. Neutral rights have been infringed by both, but American lives have suffered because of the actions of but one. We of this country are not only opposed to the submarine warfare against the trade and lives of neutrals; we are opposed to the treatment of Belgium,

of Poland, of Serbia, and of Greece. We are doing the best we can to keep alive the sanction of opinion behind the law of nations. We are interested not only in our own rights, but in the rights of every nation. We shall never agree that any nation can, under any circumstances, commit unlawful acts against an innocent and unoffending State, whether that State be this or another, and go unchallenged.

The issue between Germany and the United States has been and is, Shall the lives of non-combatants be safe upon the high seas, or shall they not? International law says that they shall be safe. When President Wilson wrote his note of July 21 last, the German government agreed that liners would not be sunk by its submarines without warning and without safety to the lives of non-combatants. To have obtained such a ruling from the German government was then a very great victory. We dare to hope that the American note of April 18, 1916, will make this victory secure and permanent.

In any event, the nations now at war should have learned by this time that in questions relating to international justice this is a United States.

FELLOWSHIP AND RECONCILIATION

WE HAVE heretofore referred to the formation of an American group of the Fellowship of Reconciliation last fall at Garden City, Long Island. Another meeting of the Fellowship was held at Ocean Grove, April 13-14-15 and 16. It would be easy to state that there were devotional meetings; an address by Dr. Rufus M. Jones, of Haverford College, on “The Need of a Fundamental Spiritual Outlook;” another on “Redemption and Reconciliation,” by the Rev. Richard Roberts, of England; another on “The Distinctive Contribution of Jesus to Social Life,” by Prof. Walter Rauschenbusch, of Rochester University. We could say that there was much perfect sincerity and most encouraging and constructive effort in the direction of clarified thinking and rational utterance in terms of a new and better world order. But none of these would adequately express the spirit, temper, or hopefulness of the conference.

Men and women from various Christian communions, and some who adhered to no communion, were in attendance. They seemed to have been drawn together because of a profound disturbance over the confusion of thinking in our present world, especially as regards war, as well as all social, and indeed even personal, antago-